

REMARKS

This application, as amended herein, contains claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 - 20 and newly added claims 21 - 23.

The undersigned wishes to extend his thanks to Examiner Amini for the many courtesies extended to him during the telephone interview conducted earlier today. While the telephone contact was initiated by the undersigned to determine the status of the application, including possible dispositions for the amendment mailed on July 1, 2004 and received on July 6, 2004, the undersigned and Examiner Amini had a brief discussion on the merits. During that discussion, reference was made to Figures 4 and 5 of the current application and the fact that the data with respect to a first variable and the data with respect to a second variable are simultaneously displayed. It was further noted that this is done without entering any data other than the position of the pointer on the screen.

Examiner Amini noted that entry of the amendment mailed on July 1, 2004 and received on July 6, under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.116 was doubtful, as it is likely that new issues are raised. However, Examiner Amini noted that he was favorably disposed to considering amendments along the lines discussed above and submitted herein. Thus, the undersigned received authorization from the assignee to file an RCE.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.C.S. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson.

Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of Lee et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a data displaying method for a computer system that includes a computer apparatus with a database; a display device; and a pointer for entering a position on the screen of said display device. The method comprises displaying a main graph by reading data from said database and plotting said data on the screen of said display device with respect to a first variable; determining whether or not an input from said pointer is a request for plotting data related to a second variable; determining coordinate data of a position of said main graph displayed on said screen of said display device; searching coordinate data of said position from said database; and if said input from said pointer is a request for plotting data related to said second variable: reading coordinate data of said position from said database; displaying a window within said main graph while plotting of data related to said second variable is requested by said pointer; and plotting coordinate data of said position with respect to said second variable in said window, so that said data with respect to said first variable and said data with respect to said second variable are simultaneously displayed.

As previously discussed, this window within a main graph is best illustrated with respect to Applicant's Fig 5 and Fig. 6. As note in the specification, at page 8, middle paragraph, to which the Examiner is respectfully

referred, Applicant's invention solves a multitude of problems in the prior art by displaying the two graphs simultaneously, with one within the other. The user does not have to turn his or eyes away from the main graph to see the additional graph. Further, information as to how something varies with respect to a variable other than that displayed on the axes of the main graph may be viewed, without looking away from the main graph.

As also previously discussed, claim 1 also recites that the method comprises displaying the window while plotting of data related to the second variable is requested from the pointer. As specifically noted in the Summary of the Invention section (See this application, published as US2002/0026247, at page 1, right hand column, 9 lines from the bottom of paragraph [0010]), an advantage of the method is that "Consequently, the data displaying method can stop the sub-plotting of data quickly in case the user does not need it any longer." This will save the user valuable time, and prevent a train of thought from being lost, if the user makes a mistake as to what data is being accessed. Further, it is also noted that this method of data display provides the additional advantage that when the user activates the pointer to display data related to the second variable, and data related to the second variable is being accessed, the window is being displayed. Thus, by the window being displayed, the user knows the data is being accessed, even though it may not already be available for display. This provides another unique advantage, in that the user is not mislead into thinking that the command to retrieve the data has not been properly processed, and that

it must be entered again, or that there is something wrong with respect to the operation of the computer system.

Finally, by simultaneously displaying the data with respect to the first variable and the data with respect to the second variable, the user of the system can effectively see trends with respect to more than one variable, possibly visualize variations of a function in a three dimensional sense, and can have all pertinent data displayed simultaneously.

Jackson does not teach or suggest what is discussed above. For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Jackson, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that system claim 5 and medium claim 8, which have the same recitations with respect to the window being within the main graph while plotting of data related to the second variable is requested from the pointer, and of simultaneously displaying data with respect to the first variable and data with respect to the second variable, are also directed to patentable subject matter. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 8 are not obvious over the combination of Jackson and Lee et al.

As previously noted, the pointer of Lee et al. is not a pointer on a screen that defines coordinate data with respect to axes. Further, it is not a pointer used to retrieve data with respect to a second variable. A careful

reading of Lee et al. reveals that the pointer of Lee et al. is a software pointer that points to various items in a software stack. Thus, the teachings of Lee et al. have nothing whatsoever to do with a pointer on a screen, as used in Applicant's invention, as set forth in claims 1, 5 and 8. It is thus respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5 and 8 are directed to patentable subject matter.

Further, Lee et al. does not teach or suggest the window within a main graph, as discussed above with respect to claims 1, 5 and 8.

In view of the above remarks with respect to the lack of relevance of Lee et al., it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5 and 8 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

Claim 12, which depends from claim 1, states that the main graph is displayed within a first window, so that said plotting of coordinate data of said position with respect to said second variable is in a second window within said first window. Claim 12 further defines the concept shown in Applicant's Fig 5 and Fig. 6, wherein it is clear that the main graph may be displayed in a window. Newly added system claim 13 and media claim 14, are similar to claim 12. It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 - 14 are directed to patentable subject matter.

Claim 15 states that the database contains data values that are functions of at least two variables, the database having instances of a set of values of a first of the

variables, each instance containing data values that are a function of other of the variables, wherein a position of said pointer with respect to an axis of said main graph selects data to be displayed from various ones of said instances.

Because the prior art does not disclose or suggest this database structure, and the manner in which data is retrieved from this structure, as specifically set forth in claim 15, it is submitted that claim 15 is directed to patentable subject matter. System claim 16 and media claim 17, are similar to claim 15. It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 and 17 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

Method claim 18 states that the main graph and the window are displayed simultaneously. This further highlights the advantages of Applicant's invention, as set forth above with respect to claim 1, from which claim 18 depends. Such simultaneous display enhances the advantages discussed with respect to claim 1. It is thus submitted that claim 18 is directed to patentable subject matter. Further system claim 19 and media claim 20, are similar to claim 18. It is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 20 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

Claims 4, 7 and 11 depend from claims 1, 5 and 8, respectively. For the reasons set forth above for the independent claims, it is submitted that claims 4, 7 and 11 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

Newly added method claim 21 (and newly added analogous system claim 22 and medium claim 23) states that simultaneous display of the data with respect to the first variable and the data with respect to the second variable occurs without entry of data other than position of the pointer on the screen. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest this approach, which facilitates rapid and accurate plotting of additional data. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 - 23 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

In view of the allowable nature of the subject matter of all of the claims, if the Examiner cannot issue an immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that he contact the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

An Information Disclosure Statement, calling to the attention of the Examiner prior art cited in Applicant's corresponding application in Japan, in June of 2004 was mailed on July 1, 2004 and received on July 6, 2004. It is respectfully requested that the art cited therein be made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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